

Revised
GLEAS Procedure #31

Fish Contaminant Monitoring Program
Fish Collection and Processing Procedure

Introduction

The purpose of the Fish Contaminant Monitoring Program (FCMP) is to quantitatively assess the degree of chemical contamination in fish from waters throughout the state. This procedure describes the collection and processing techniques for fish samples to be obtained for contaminant analysis.

Pre-Collection

Staff should maintain a field notebook containing the following information (as a minimum):

- This Procedure
- Fisheries Division Contact List (District Offices and Fish Stations)
- Blank Field Data Sheets
- Current Michigan Fishing Guide

Staff with the responsibility for a specified site will be provided with a Fish Collection Assignment Sheet (Attachment 1) by the FCMP Specialist. The assignment sheet identifies the waterbody, location, contact people, id#, species (number and size ranges) and processing instructions. Staff should select appropriate fish sampling techniques and collection times after consultation with the appropriate District Fisheries Biologist. Staff collecting fish samples must have Cultural and Scientific Fish Collectors Permits which are issued by Fisheries Division.

The FCMP and biosurvey (stream shocker and backpack shocker sections) checklists can be used to identify equipment and supplies needed (Attachments 2 and 3). Vehicles, boats and major equipment (shockers, nets, etc.) must be signed out on the field calendar.

The appropriate Fisheries Division Office and Conservation Officers must be notified by the GLEAS staff assigned to a site prior to the fish collections. The names and phone numbers of the people to be contacted will be provided on the Fish Collection Assignment Sheet.

Fish Collections

Most fish will be collected by GLEAS and Fisheries Division staff using electrofishing equipment or nets. Since the desired species and size ranges are sometimes not found, the Fish Collection Assignment Sheet will indicate if substitutions can be made. Substitutions will be pursuant to the predator and bottom feeder preference lists (Attachment 4). Species substitutions can not be made for trend monitoring collections. Size ranges are generally goals and should be met as closely as possible unless noted otherwise on the Fish Collection Assignment Sheet.